REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit this Amendment and Response in reply to the Official Action dated December 23, 2008. Applicants submit that the Amendment and Response is fully responsive to the Official Action for at least the reasons set forth herein.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the claims 2, 4, 12, 24, 26, 39, 43 and 50 have allowable subject matter.

Applicants note that claims 1, 4, 11, 20, 23, 26, 38, 40, 42, and 49 have been amended herewith. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 2. Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form. Claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 12. Claim 20 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, wherein said controller in said master apparatus has means for, if an apparatus to records a program cannot be selected, rearranging timer recording settings made in the apparatus to retain an apparatus to record a program, instructing the retained apparatus to change timer recording to settings and set the program for timer recording, and instructing other apparatus in which timer recording settings are changed to change timer recording settings. Claim 23 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 24. Claim 26 has been rewritten into independent form. Claim 38 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 39.

Claim 40 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, wherein if an apparatus to record a program cannot be selected, said master apparatus is adapted to rearrange timer recording settings made in the apparatus to retain an apparatus to record a program and to instruct the retained apparatus to change timer recording settings and set the program for

timer recording, and instruct other apparatus in which timer recording settings are changed to change timer recording settings.

Claim 42 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 43. Claim 49 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 50.

Claims 2, 12, 24, 39, 43, and 50 have been cancelled herewith.

No new matter has been added to the application by way of the aforementioned amendments.

Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-23, 25, 27-29, 31-38, 40-42, 46, 47 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wood (previously cited). Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Tanaka (both references were previously cited).

Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-11, 13-23, 25-27, 38, 40-42, and 49 are patentable over the references based at least upon the above-identified amendments.

With respect to independent claims 28 and 46, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. Notably, it appears that the Examiner has revised the rejection of the claim 28; claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wood.

Applicants submit that Wood fails to teach or suggest a saving controller for ***transferring the program data selected by the user as program data to be permanently*** stored from among the program data stored in said temporary memory to said permanent memory; and if the program data stored in said temporary memory exceeds said predetermined amount as recited in the claim. At best, Wood teaches deleting selected

episodes, all episodes or partially viewed episodes. *See* paragraph 0111. Wood does not teach moving program data from temporary memory to permanent memory. In contrast, in the claimed invention the user can select programs to be stored in permanent memory. Accordingly, claims 28 and 46 are patentable over Wood; the reference fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claims.

Applicants submit that claims 29 and 30 are patentable over Wood based at least upon the above-identified analysis and in view of their dependency from claim 28.

Applicants further submit that claim 29 is patentable over the cited references based at least upon the following additional reasons.

Wood fails to disclose displaying a ***period of time*** for which the program data stored in the temporary memory is ***held***, as recited. The identified sections in the Official Action fail to teach the claimed feature. At best, the identified sections teach scheduling a recording of a show. Paragraph 0129. Additionally, the identified sections teach that the memory has a limited amount of space. Paragraph 0059.

Applicants submit that scheduling a recording of a show or that the memory has a limited amount of space does not teach displaying the time period that the show is stored. Additionally, as a result of the claim features, the claimed invention has an advantage over Wood. The user can determine a period of time for which a program can be stored to customize a viewing choice or pace. By viewing the time period which the show is stored, the user can prioritize the viewing of the recorded shows.

Tanaka fails to cure the deficiencies identified above.

Applicants also submit that independent claim 31 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicants submit that Wood fails to teach one or more slave apparatus for automatically **continuously recording a program** on a predetermined channel and playing back the recorded program as instructed; and a master apparatus for, when the user is to **determine a channel on which each of the slave apparatus automatically continuously records** a program and to select a program to be played back on the channel, displaying a list of programs recorded by all the slave apparatus in association with channels and times at which the programs are recorded, on an output device for displaying programs, and, if a program to be displayed is selected by the user with a channel and a time, controlling the slave apparatus which has recorded the program to play back the program, and, **if the user changes the channel to another channel, controls the slave apparatus which has recorded a program on the other channel at the same time as the former channel to play back the program on the other channel,** as recited in the claim.

Notably, Wood fails to teach **continuously** recording a predetermined channel. At best, Wood teaches scheduling a recording. The Official Action identifies Fig. 2 as the teaching for these features. However, Fig. 2 (of Wood) does not illustrate or depict continuously recording a predetermined channel. For example, Wood, at Fig. 5, illustrates an example of scheduling a recording for a specific period of time.

In contrast, in the claimed invention, (as recited in Claim 31) each apparatus is permanently assigned to a given channel for continuously recording programs that are broadcast on the respective channels. Each apparatus automatically continuously records programs broadcast on its assigned channel.

Additionally, Wood fails to teach the claimed playback feature. Specifically, in the claimed invention when a program in a certain channel is being played back, if the user operates a dial or cursor key to change to another channel, the system plays back the program on the other channel at the ***same time*** as the program which is presently played back. The claimed invention has an advantage. The user can freely change channels as if viewing programs on a real-time basis (but where the programs were recorded in the past).

Accordingly, claim 31 is patentable over Wood; the reference fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claim.

Applicants submit that claims 32 and 33 are patentable over Wood based at least upon the above-identified analysis and in view of their dependency from claim 31. Applicants further note that Tanaka fails to cure any of the aforementioned deficiencies.

Applicants further submit that independent claims 34, 37 and 47 are patentable over Wood. Wood fails to teach a master apparatus having a controller for grasping programs recorded by each of all the apparatus, and, if the program data of a program instructed by the user to be played back is stored in the first memory of the master apparatus, reading the program data from said first memory, decoding the program data into a program signal with said first decoder, outputting the program signal to an output device for displaying programs, and, if the program data of a program instructed by the user to be played back is stored in a slave apparatus, instructing the slave apparatus to play back the program, outputting a program signal received from the slave apparatus to said output device, and, **if the program data of a program which is highly likely to be played back by a subsequent control action of the user is stored in the first memory**

of the master apparatus, preparing the master apparatus to read the program data from said first memory and decode the program data with said first decoder, and, if the program data of a program which is highly likely to be played back by a subsequent control action of the user is stored in a slave apparatus, instructing the slave apparatus to prepare said slave apparatus to play back the program, as recited in claim 34 (and similarly recited in independent claims 37 and 47).

Notably, Wood fails to teach predicting which apparatus the playback will occur based upon which program is highly likely to be played back.

In other words, in the claimed invention the apparatus estimates or predicts which apparatus (program) will be played. For example, the apparatus can estimate a program which is highly likely to be played from the position that is pointed by the cursor in the selection view display window. The claimed invention has an advantage over Wood. The time required to switch between programs to be played back is shortened.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 34, 37 and 47 are patentably distinct from Wood.

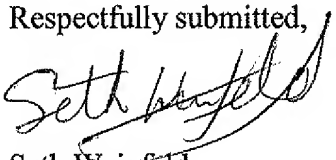
Applicants also submit that claims 35 and 36 are patentable over Wood based at least upon the above-identified reason and their dependency from claim 34.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13-23, 25, 27-29, 31-38, 40-42, 46, 47 and 49 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Additionally, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 30 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In conclusion, the Applicants believe that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and henceforth respectfully solicit the Examiner to allow the

application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



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